Life is easier with an eIndex

Searching for 'trade' in an ebook could give you a link to information on a 'trade publication' or 'trade' as an occupation or 'trade' as import/export. You might be lucky and find what you want immediately, but it is more likely you will have to wade through a range of irrelevant results to find the information you want. **A well constructed eIndex will make this search easier.**

Providing an index greatly enhances the capacity of readers to navigate through the ebook. This is particularly important with ebooks as readers can be restricted by not being able to flip through the pages as one can with a printed book.

A good index in an ebook will:
- provide an active link to the information;
- not simply reproduce every occurrence of the word, regardless of meaning;
- provide direct access to the information required;
- be created by a qualified indexer who can add value to the index, understands the different uses of the word 'trade' and who is focused on the concepts, not just the words that appear in the text;
- convey a sense of depth of the topic coverage;
- break down large concepts into useful subgroups;
- offer links to similar concepts or alternative terminology; and
- make life easier for the reader.

eIndexes can assist publisher sales with the inclusion of the index in preview chapters from publishers or through Amazon.

Hyperlinking an existing index can be easily done. There is no reason to leave the ebook index inactive or worse still remove it when producing an ebook.

The **International Digital Publishing Forum** board has approved a proposal to include **indexes** in the **EPUB standard**. The proposal includes ideas about improving the reader's experience by integrating index entries as part of search functionality and showing them in context so the user can follow threads of thought through the book. Access to the index should be as easy as access to the search function.

Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI) has joined the International Digital Publishing Forum and is part of the Indexes Working Group to include indexes in the EPUB Standard.

Further Information:
ANZSI ebook webpage
http://www.anzsi.org/site/ebooks.asp
IDPF Indexes Working Group
https://code.google.com/p/epub-revision/wiki/IndexesMainPage

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